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(Administration)

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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

rec'd 13 July
Executive Registry
17-1569/1
Defense.

6 JUL 1977

Admiral Stansfield Turner
Director, Central Intelligence
Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Stan:

Thanks for your letter of 29 June 1977 informing me of the reinstatement of earlier procedures on access to CIA materials in Presidential Libraries by official historians. This is welcome news to the Department of Defense and, I am sure, to other agencies engaged in official historical research.

I appreciate very much your prompt and constructive action on our behalf.

Sincerely,

D. O. Cooke
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense

EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE *Defense*

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Admiral Stansfield Turner
Director, Central Intelligence
Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505



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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Routing Slip

DCI

TO:		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
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2	DDCI		✓		
3	D/DCI/IC				
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Remarks:

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77-1569/A

Washington, D.C. 20505

29 June 1977

Mr. D. O. Cooke
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Administration)
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Doc:

Thank you for your letter of 8 June 1977 concerning our policy regarding access to CIA originated documents held in Presidential Libraries. As your letter arrived, the CIA Historian was writing to inform Dr. Alfred Goldberg of your staff that documents originated by our Directorate of Operations (DO) which are twenty or more years old could be made available to official historians without prior CIA review. In addition, we were also releasing for review the DO intelligence disseminations (SO's, SODB's, FIR's, and FIRDB's) regardless of date. This would have responded to the request of the OSD Historian's office for access to Korean War related CIA documents in the Truman Library--the request which precipitated the question of prior review by CIA.

As a result of your letter and of inquiries the CIA Historian has had from other agencies, our 25 April 1977 statement to the National Archives and Records Service (NARS) on the problem of access to CIA materials in Presidential Libraries by official historians has been restudied. The CIA Historian and the Directorate of Operations have agreed to reinstate the procedures that had been in effect prior to 25 April 1977. This will eliminate the need for prior review of CIA documents held in Presidential Libraries which may be of interest to official historians of other agencies. The policy which we will now implement with reference to Presidential Libraries will be as follows:

1) Incoming requests from other agencies will be directed to the CIA Historian for initial review. The requesting agency will identify its responsible historian by full name and rank (if military) and by type of employment (staff, contract, or other), and will certify the researcher's level of security clearance.

2) A brief statement of the proposed research requiring access to CIA documents will accompany the initial request and establish the "need to know." The CIA Historian will approve or deny the research request--consulting, if individual cases so demand, with the CIA components most directly concerned.

3) Once a project is approved, the CIA Historian will so notify the requesting agency, NARS, and the specified Presidential Library. An official historian using a Presidential Library will be free to take such notes as desired and to have the Library make copies of the documents he wishes to retain for research purposes.

4) All such notes and copies of CIA documents desired by requesters will be collected at the Presidential Library and forwarded through NARS to the CIA Historian for review prior to release. The CIA Historian will ask the originating components to review requested documents and/or notes desired by other agency historians, and will then transmit the items (or note their denial) to the requester.

5) As in the past, should a requesting agency contemplate overt publication of a given history, formal security review and clearance procedures will require CIA concurrence on the inclusion of information based on Agency originated documents.

I am aware of and support the Interagency Classification Review Committee's interest in facilitating access to classified records for official projects. You may rest assured that within its responsibilities to protect intelligence sources, methods, identities, and projects, the Central Intelligence Agency will cooperate in that effort.

Yours,



STANSFIELD TURNER

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Yours,

STANSFIELD TURNER

Distribution:

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- 1 - DCI
- 1 - DDCI w/cy of basic (ER 77-1569)
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- 1 - CIA Historian w/cy of basic
- 1 - DDA Subject w/cy of basic (DDA 77-3443)
- 1 - DDA Chrono
- 1 - JFB Chrono

ORIGINATING OFFICER:

[Signature]
John F. Blake
Deputy Director for Administration

Basic: Ltr dtd 8 Jun 77 to DCI fr
Mr. Cooke re access to CIA originated
documents held in Presidential Libraries

Date

28 JUN 1977

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Remarks:

Please develop DCI response.

Executive Secretary

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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

Executive Registry

77-1569

DD/A Registry

77-2443

8 JUN 1977

Admiral Stansfield Turner
Director
Central Intelligence
Langley, Virginia

Dear Stan:

Department of Defense historians are currently engaged in preparing histories based on extensive research in the official records, including those in the Presidential Libraries, which are under the supervision of the National Archives and Records Service (NARS). In the past, U.S. departments and agencies, including the CIA, have permitted Government historians from other agencies to have access to their documents in the Presidential Libraries, subject to review by the issuing agencies of reproduced documents and final studies before publication. Recently, the CIA has changed its policy to require that copies of CIA documents in files at the Presidential Libraries be sent to the Agency for review before the historian may see them. A CIA representative will then determine whether the historian can see the documents, and subsequently there will be a second review of reproductions of documents and notes taken by the historian to determine if they may be released.

This change in procedure can have serious consequences for both historians and archivists. The cost in time, people, and money to NARS could be very great if it became necessary for the archivists to remove CIA documents from hundreds or thousands of files, reproduce them, and send them to the CIA for a preliminary screening. This might have to be repeated many times since each historian might very well be interested in using hundreds, if not thousands, of file folders. NARS would be faced with the following alternatives:

1. Making an investment of people and time that it cannot afford for this purpose.
2. Denying Government historians access to the records, thereby greatly diminishing the scope and quality of their work, perhaps even terminating some of it.
3. Ignoring the CIA directive and granting access to the historians.


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None of these alternatives is desirable. The purposes of the CIA could be adequately served by reverting to its previous policy, which incorporated adequate safeguards for reviewing documents requested by historians and granting or denying the requests for copies. Moreover, the Agency would continue to be entitled to review for security the portions of any publication using materials from CIA sources.

The Department of Defense would appreciate consideration by the Agency of the above observations and a review of CIA policy on access to CIA records in NARS by official U.S. Government historians. It would be in the best interests of the U.S. Government, the Agency, and the public that access, with appropriate safeguards, be facilitated.

Appropos the above, the Interagency Classification Review Committee is currently considering the broad question of access by U.S. Government historians. At its last meeting, the Committee voted in principle to facilitate access to classified records for official purposes. Specific interagency measures will be proposed and considered in the future. Meanwhile, your help in meeting our immediate problem will be appreciated.

Sincerely,



D. O. Cooke

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense

25 April 1977

Dr. James F. O'Neill
Deputy Archivist of the United States
National Archives and Records Service
Washington, D. C. 20408

Dear Dr. O'Neill:

The 9 February 1977 request by Colonel Jack B. Shaw of the OSD Historian's Office to grant Dr. Stephen Rearden access to documents and information originated by or clearly attributable to the Central Intelligence Agency in records held by the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library has been carefully considered. We regret that the blanket access request for Dr. Rearden cannot be granted at this time.

By law, the Director of Central Intelligence is responsible for the protection of sources and methods of intelligence. In addition, due to the generally sensitive nature of Agency-originated material, access is governed by the strictest "need to know," whatever the clearance of the requester. Total access is not given even to Agency employees.

To aid Dr. Rearden's research, we request that the staff of the Truman Library assist him in identifying those records pertinent to his study which contain CIA originated material. Copies of these documents should then be sent to the CIA Historian, 203 Key Building, Washington, D. C. 20505. A CIA representative will review the records to determine if they can be released to Dr. Rearden; and should some documents of special sensitivity appear of particular value to Dr. Rearden's request, these may be sanitized for release to him.

In addition, a CIA representative must review either notes taken from CIA-originated material or reproductions of CIA documents desired by Dr. Rearden, prior to their release to him. Unfortunately, this means that the Library again will have to forward such documents or notes to the CIA Historian. Additional questions, if any, concerning declassification or sanitization can also be resolved at this time.

For subsequent, similar requests to National Archives and Records Service, a statement of this Agency's policies

concerning access to its materials in Presidential Library collections is attached.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Jack B. Pfeiffer
CIA Historian

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Attachment

CIA ACCESS POLICY CONCERNING PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES

1. CIA policies concerning access to classified Agency records held at the various Presidential Libraries have been adopted after careful consideration and in view of existing law which tasks the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency with the responsibility for protecting the sources and methods of intelligence.
2. Access to classified CIA material will be determined by the requester's position (official and non-official), need to know, and official U.S. Government requirements. There are two categories for access:
 - a. Category 1: Official U.S. Government historians or certified officials of other Government departments who are writing classified histories, studies, or research papers and who have the appropriate clearances. In order to gain access to classified Agency records, these individuals will observe the following procedures:
 - 1) Identify to Presidential Library personnel the records that are pertinent to their work, and the Library will then forward copies of these records to the CIA Historian, 203 Key Building, Washington, D. C. 20505.
 - 2) CIA reviewers will then decide whether the documents in question can be released for use by the requester. Documents of special importance to the requester may be sanitized and then made available.
 - 3) After the requester's review, notes taken from CIA-originated material or reproductions of CIA documents desired by the requester must also be returned to the CIA Historian for review by a CIA representative prior to their release and use.
 - b. Category 2: All other individuals not covered in Paragraph 2a, above, are to be denied access to classified CIA material unless granted specific permission in writing from the Central Intelligence Agency.

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Admiral Stansfield Turner
Director
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